



CITY OF HOUSTON

Sylvester Turner

Mayor

P.O. Box 1562
Houston, Texas 77251-1562

Telephone – Dial 311
www.houstontx.gov

October 6, 2021

The Honorable Trent Ashby
Chair, House Select Committee on Constitutional Rights & Remedies
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Chair Ashby,

Thank you for the opportunity to state my opposition, again, to the issues in House Bill 25. As Mayor of the most diverse city in America, I am dedicated to elevating all persons in our community. The LGBTQ community members contribute to the dynamic city culture. As such, discrimination against the LGBTQ community, especially young transgender students, goes against the welcoming nature of Houston and is just wrong.

As I shared back in the Regular 87th Texas Legislative Session, transgender students face a large amount of discrimination. A study from Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) reports:

- 75 percent of transgender students felt unsafe at school because of their gender expression
- 60 percent of transgender students were forced to use a bathroom or locker room that did not match the gender they live every day
- 50 percent of transgender students were unable to use the name or pronoun that matched their gender identity
- 70 percent of transgender students said they avoided bathrooms because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable.

Furthermore, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has time and time again supported inclusivity and respect of all students “accommodating the sport participation interests of students of color, women, students with disability, and lesbian, gay, and bisexual students.”

House Bill 25 requires students to participate in interscholastic athletic events based on their biological sex at birth and would codify injustice. I request that you vote against House Bill 25 in support of equality and in opposition to discrimination.

Transgender students deserve more from the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sylvester Turner".

Sylvester Turner
Mayor